

Field surveys continued this week in the Carteret-Woodbridge infestation area, with more than 37,760 trees inspected to date. The entire quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles. Four new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 63. Additionally, Waste Management Corporation in Elizabeth has been certified as a disposal site for the Carteret infestation. Twenty-four USFS climbers, one NJ Department of Agriculture climber, and 31 program personnel from PPQ, NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ Forestry, and USDA Grain and Tobacco are performing survey and regulatory activities.

Public outreach efforts are being planned for Carteret and Woodbridge, New Jersey, tentatively scheduled for November 23. Program officials are looking at providing the mayors/city council members with a walking tour of the areas where initial tree removals will take place. It is anticipated this event will be covered by regional and local media. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will be sending an informational letter to all residents who will be losing a tree(s) on their property. In total, the program is looking at removing approximately 4,000 trees across the four municipalities included in the Carteret-Woodbridge infestation. The first phase of tree removal is slated to begin November 29. Approximately 1,000 trees, including the 410 infested trees, within the core are targeted for removal during this phase.

In the Jersey City-Hoboken infestation area, 7,525 trees have been inspected to date with no infestations found. Ten state and federal personnel are working in the area, as well as two tree climbers contracted through Bartlett Tree Experts. Climbers are expected to be hired by the end of 2004, as interviews for the positions have been completed, which will end the need for contracted climbers.

Kevin Freeman, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Supervisory Climber with the ALB New Jersey Program, and Rob Kudlack, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Supervisory Climber with the New York ALB Program, conducted job recruitment and public outreach at the job fair hosted by Paul Smith's College in Paul Smith, New York, from November 3 through November 5.

On Dec 5, Mike Bohne, USDA Forest Service Entomologist/ALB Outreach coordinator for the New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, Rosa Yoo, New Jersey Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator, and Megan Sheremata, New York State Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator will conduct an Urban Forestry Workshop at the Greenbelt Environmental Education Center, High Rock Park, Staten Island, NY. The workshop will provide information on the ALB infestation in Carteret, NJ; the ALB infestations found this summer in NYC and how to look for, identify and report any sighting of the ALB.